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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CA-02	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DS-00	EAP-01	EUR-01	FDRE-01	H-01	IMMC-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-14	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	MFLO-03
	M-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	FMP-00	SNIS-00
	NISC-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09	G-00	/051W	

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O 101644Z FEB 95  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1937  
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS  
DATE/CASE ID: 06 AUG 2007 200103014

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 01791

DEPARTMENT FOR AF, EUR/UBI, AF/C AND AF/RA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, NL, BE, RW

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO NETHERLANDS TO GUIDE RWANDAN POLITICAL RECONCILIATION PROCESS

REF: A) STATE 31464 B) DUBROW/FRIEDMAN TELCON 2/10  
C) DUBROW/BROCKING TELCON 2/10 D) DUBROW/GRANVILLE TELCON 2/10

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT. THIS IS ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE SEE PARA. 6.

2. POST READ WITH INTEREST REFTEL PROPOSING TO THE NETHERLANDS THAT IT GUIDE THE RWANDAN POLITICAL RECONCILIATION. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT THE APPROACH TO THE DUTCH HAS BEEN VERY QUIETLY UNDERTAKEN AND THAT WE HAVE NOT TALKED TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THE MATTER. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT BE INFORMED ABOUT OUR APPROACH TO THE NETHERLANDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND CERTAINLY BEFORE THE FEB. 16 WASHINGTON ROUNDTABLE WITH FONMIN VANDENBROUCKE.

3. WHILE WE DO NOT DISAGREE WITH THE CONCLUSION THAT  
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NEITHER THE FRENCH NOR THE BELGIANS ARE LIKELY CANDIDATES TO GUIDE THE RECONCILIATION EFFORT, WE NOTE THAT DURING AMB. FRIEDMAN'S VISIT TO BELGIUM IN JANUARY, MFA DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS FRANS VAN DAELE BRIEFED US ON THE BELGIAN APPROACH TO THE OAU. GIVEN THE VERY CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN WITH BELGIUM ON THE ENTIRE RANGE OF CENTRAL AFRICAN ISSUES IN THE PAST FOUR AND HALF YEARS, OUR PARALLEL APPROACH TO THE NETHERLANDS, WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS, COULD BE SEEN BY BELGIUM AS UNDERCUTTING ITS OWN APPROACH TO THE OAU WHICH IT HAD

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FULLY DESCRIBED TO US.

4. COMMENT. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FONMIN VANDENBROUCKE OR HIS ADVISORS WILL OPPOSE, A PRIORI, THE IDEA OF ENGAGING THE DUTCH OR SOME OTHER SUITABLE INTERLOCUTOR TO HELP ACHIEVE POLITICAL RECONCILIATION. BELGIUM DOES WANT TO PLACE ITS AFRICAN POLICY IN A LARGER EUROPEAN CONTEXT BUT MIGHT SUGGEST SOMEONE FARTHER REMOVED, BOTH GEOGRAPHICALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY, AS AN ALTERNATIVE.

5. THE GOB RELEASED TODAY, FEB. 10, ITS AFRICA POLICY PAPER. THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE AND PRESS COVERAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S AFRICA POLICY HAS ALREADY TURNED CANTANKEROUS. SHOULD OUR APPROACH TO THE NETHERLANDS BECOME KNOWN, IT COULD BE CONSIDERED BY SOME IN THE MEDIA AND IN VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES AS A LACK OF SUPPORT FOR GOB EFFORTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA. A HEADS UP TO THE MFA WILL MAINTAIN THE PATTERN OF CONSULTATIONS AND WILL GIVE FONMIN VANDENBROUCKE'S TEAM A CHANCE TO PREPARE AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE, SHOULD THE ISSUE COME UP.

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6. ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE AUTHORIZE POST TO INFORM MFA OF APPROACH MADE TO NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT.

SCHERMERHORN

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